

Ordinance No. 1-2002

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
AUTHORITY ESTABLISHING PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS AND  
PRESCRIBING THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Does Ordain as follows:

Chapter 1. General Provisions

§ 1.0. Short Title. This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Park Ordinance.”

§ 1.1. Definitions. As used in this ordinance the following words have the meanings given below, unless the context indicates otherwise:

(a) “Authority” is the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority established by joint exercise of powers agreement between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Conejo Recreation and Park District and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.

(b) “Commercial use” is for-profit use, or remunerative use of any kind, or the charging of any fee for the use of, any park or portion thereof by any person.

(c) “Executive Officer” is the Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy serving ex officio as the Executive Officer of the Authority pursuant to Sec. 10.1 of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement.

(d) “Filming” means motion picture, video, or still photography, using any imaging media whatsoever, other than casual imaging by park visitors unrelated to commercial use.

(e) “MRCA” is the acronym of Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

(f) “Park” or “parklands” means any land owned or managed by the Authority.

(g) “Permit” is an entitlement for use issued by the Executive Officer or his authorized representative.

(h) “Person” includes any individual, firm, association, organization, partnership, limited liability company, business trust, corporation, or company.

(i) “Post” or “posted” is a sign displayed in a conspicuous place at the primary entrance to the park giving notice of the rules, regulations, and special conditions applicable to use of the parkland.

§ 1.2. Purpose. (a) The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority employs park rangers who are peace officers pursuant to Penal Code Sec. 830.31(b) to protect the parks and other property of the Authority and preserve the peace therein. Within the Santa Monica Mountains Zone and Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor MRCA rangers enforce state law, local ordinances, and conditions of use pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 33211.5 and 33211.6 for properties owned or subject to the management of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy pursuant to reciprocal management agreement(s) with the Conservancy.

(b) Outside the Santa Monica Mountains Zone and Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor, rangers of the Authority must rely exclusively on state law and local ordinances that in many instances do not provide sufficient protection for park visitors or the natural resources of parklands belonging to the MRCA. The Authority finds that the adoption of the provisions of this ordinance will provide additional enforcement authority needed to provide effective management of parklands.

## Chapter 2. Management of MRCA Parklands

§ 2.0. Delegation of Management Authority. The Executive Officer of the Authority is delegated management of the parklands owned or managed by the authority, and to that end he may cause to be posted special conditions of use applicable to such property and suited to the unique conditions of each park.

§ 2.1. Posted Conditions of Use. In addition to the general provisions as established in Chapter 3 of this Ordinance, no person shall violate the posted special conditions of use as established by the Executive Officer.

§ 2.2. Emergency closures. The Executive Officer or his designee may close any parkland of the Authority by posting a notice of closure thereon where there is substantial risk of injury or loss of life caused by natural hazards or other emergency conditions. Any property so closed shall be reopened as soon as there is no longer a substantial danger of injury or loss of life. No person shall violate any posted notice of closure.

## Chapter 3. General Rules and Regulations

§ 3.0. General. This Chapter establishes general rules and regulations applicable to parklands of the Authority; such rules and regulations shall be posted in each park.

§ 3.1. Park hours. Parks are closed from sunset to sunrise unless different hours are otherwise posted. No person shall be present in or remain in or upon parkland during hours that the property is closed.

§ 3.2. Smoking and fires. No person shall smoke any substance nor light or maintain any fire of any kind.

§ 3.3. Alcohol. No person shall possess any alcoholic beverage, except pursuant to a permit issued by the Executive Officer or his designee.

§ 3.4. Littering and dumping. No person shall litter or leave any trash, garbage or refuse of any kind, nor shall any person dump any earth, rocks, construction debris, cut vegetation, furniture, rubbish, or discarded materials of any kind on such parkland.

§ 3.5. Injury to property. No person not having a permit from the Executive Officer shall injure, deface, destroy, collect, harvest, or in any way alter the existing condition of any parkland or the property thereon. The Executive Officer or his designee may issue permits for the limited taking or collecting of specimens for educational or scientific purposes or the alteration of property for management purposes; any person acting pursuant to such a permit, except contractors or employees of the Authority, shall have an original signed copy of the permit on his or her person at all times, and shall display such permit upon the request of any employee of the Authority or the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, or any peace officer.

§ 3.6. Wildlife. No person shall hunt, fish, or take wildlife, except that the Executive Officer may designate and post fishing areas specifically developed for that purpose. Taking of wildlife shall have the same meaning as defined in the California Fish and Game Code.

§ 3.7. Weapons. No person shall possess a firearm, bow and arrows, or any air or spring powered device.

§ 3.8. Fireworks. No person shall use or possess any fireworks.

§ 3.9. Dogs. Except as provided in this section, no person shall have any dog off-leash, nor shall the owner or person in possession of any dog fail to clean up after such animal or allow the excrement thereof to remain. The Executive Officer or his designee may prohibit all dogs from entering any area of a park by posting a dog closure, and no person shall bring or permit a dog to enter such a closed area. Where conditions permit, the Executive Officer may post an area where dogs may be present without leash so long as they are under the immediate control of the owner or person in possession thereof. Within such area no person shall have a dog not within his immediate control.

§ 3.10. Bicycle and motorized travel. No person shall operate a bicycle on a trail or other area that has been posted against such use. No person shall operate a motorcycle, all terrain vehicle, motorized bicycle, or motorized scooter anywhere other than on a paved roadway or parking lot.

§ 3.11. Camping. No person shall camp on any parkland except by permit issued by the Executive Officer or his designee. Camping areas shall be expressly designated and posted for that purpose. Any person or group camping in such a designated area shall have

the original signed permit in their possession and shall display such permit at the request of any employee of the Authority or of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, or any peace officer.

§ 3.12. Closed areas. No person shall enter into or remain upon any area that has been closed to public use.

§ 3.13. Commercial or filming use. No person shall use parkland for any commercial or filming use without a permit issued by the Executive Officer or his designee. Commercial or filming use may be permitted only when to do so would not damage or impair the natural features of any park, nor unreasonably interfere with public enjoyment of the area. Any person using MRCA parkland for commercial or filming purposes shall have the original signed permit in their possession and shall display such permit at the request of any employee of the Authority or of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, or any peace officer. No person shall violate any term, condition, or limitation of any such permit.

#### Chapter 4. Vehicle Use

§ 4.0. Traffic control. No person shall drive any vehicle, as defined in the California Vehicle Code, upon any MRCA parkland except upon, and subject to, any posted traffic control signs. Traffic control signs include, but are not limited to, stop signs, speed limit signs, directional signs, turning signs, and signs limiting vehicle use on trails.

§ 4.1. Parking control. No person shall stop, park, or leave standing any vehicle upon any MRCA parkland except upon, and subject to, any posted parking regulation sign. Parking control signs include, but are not limited to, designated parking area, no parking, no stopping, and no unauthorized vehicle use signs.

#### Chapter 5. Penalty for Violations

§ 5.0. Misdemeanor violations. Violation of any provision of Chapter 2 (§§ 2.0 through and including § 2.3) and Chapter 3 (§§ 3.0 through and including § 3.12) of this Ordinance shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of one thousand dollars(\$1,000), or imprisonment in the county jail for six months, or both such fine and imprisonment.

§ 5.1. Vehicular violations. Violation of any traffic control sign as provided in § 4.0 of this Ordinance is an infraction punishable by a maximum fine of one hundred dollars (\$100).

§ 5.2. Parking violations. Violation of any parking or vehicle use sign as provided in § 4.1 of this Ordinance is subject to a civil penalty of not more than sixty dollars (\$60).

§ 5.3. Reduction of misdemeanor to infraction. At the time a particular action is commenced for violation of any provision of Chapter 2 (§§ 2.0 through and including § 2.3) or Chapter 3 (§§ 3.0 through and including § 3.12) of this Ordinance, the judicial officer may, considering the recommendation of the people, reduce the charged offense from a misdemeanor to an infraction. Any person convicted of the offense after a reduction shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100).

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 25th day of February, 2002

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Chairperson

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing ordinance, being Ordinance No. 1-2002, passed first reading on the 28th day of January, 2002, passed second reading on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2002, and was adopted at a special meeting of the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 25th day of February, 2002.

DATED:

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Executive Officer